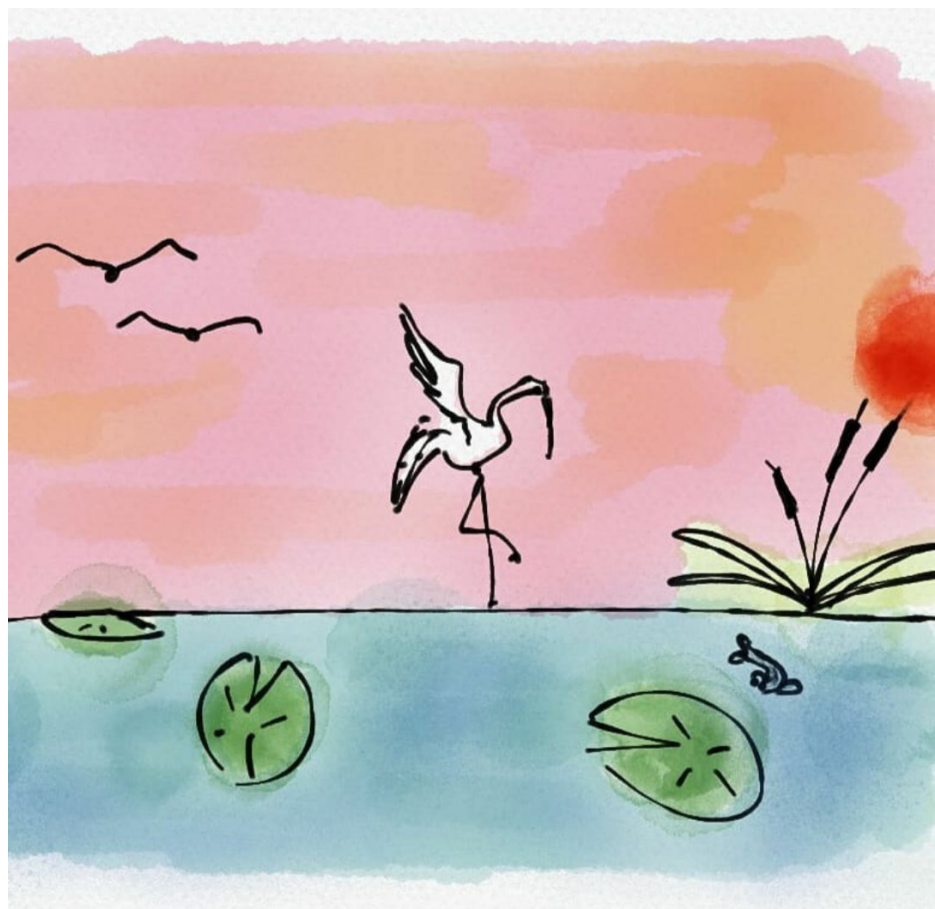




INK THERAPY

selected poems



A short introduction

Writing takes my mind off things. For a multitude of reasons, the summer of 2019 was a pretty intense one for me, and one of the things I did to try and cope with it was getting back to writing. I set to write at least one micro-story or poem every single day, based on a one-word prompt posted on Twitter by #vss365. I called them my “ink therapy”.

Here are a few; I hope you like these little children of mine. Some are silly, some are grotesque, some chew the scenery with dramatic gusto... It was a lot of fun and it helped me get back on my feet.

And that’s pretty swell, if you ask me.

Enjoy!

Chel

01.09.2019

#braid

The crows feast
On the red field
Priests scurrying
Last rites
A dying man whispers
A scribe writes
Last thoughts
A wounded knight rises
His armor broken
A lady awaits
Black is her robe
A thin gold wreath
On her crown braid
Silent embrace
Away they ride

#unfurl

The dawn is near
Feel the wind
Cast off the pier
No longer pinned

Unfurl our sails
Steady the wheel
Fear not the gale
Whistle a reel

We chase the horizon
Let our souls sing
In unison
On Fortune's wing

#reach

From the depths
Will it reach
Claw its way back
To the light
Broken into
Rolling pieces
Dragged down
By forlorn despair
Sysiphus weeps

#beneath

If you find yourself
In a pit
Don't climb
These slippery walls
Look down
And dig
For the pot of gold beneath
Lift the lid
Let the magic sprout
And climb the rainbow
Let it carry you up
In a warm embrace
To safety
Everything
Will be all right

#beneath

Says the lore
That beyond the sandy shore
of Avalon
Beneath the mist
At the edge of oblivion
Lies a hidden castle
By light unkissed
Worn is the table
Marble and gold
And rowan feet
A rusty sword for each seat
And asleep, the King, so I was told

#trick

Did it matter then
It doesn't matter now
Just running away
Dropping the broken chain
And the rests of Cupid's bow
In disarray
It was an illusion
A trick of the heart
Leaving only confusion
And souls torn apart

#trick

Soft whispers
A trick of light
Illicit lovers
In the night
Swift escape
Under the Moon
Indistinct shape
On a pontoon
The skiff departs
The coast is clear
The Queen of Hearts
Sheds a tear

#verdant

An undisturbed valley
Deep gorges and canyons
Light, stone and water
In verdant overgrowth
Thistles and saxifrages
Rustled by timeless murmurs
Of streams and windy echoes
Here they lie
On a bed of velvet grass
Pyrene in cold slumber
Heracles at her side

#stack

Isolated in a twilight of half-closed blinds,
A dusty ray of golden sunset light shoots through
To a stack of old letters, scribbled words once true
Of two forsaken hearts that love no longer binds

#renounce

Renounce the fire
Smother the flame
Turn back
Forget the dream
A faded horizon abeam
Joining the pack
Bland and lame
Til I expire
No
I won't do that

#flock

Flying high the flock departed
Looking towards warmer shores
Over mountains and over seas
Clinging to a memory of home
Knowing they would never go back

#flock

Interwoven threads
Cries in the night, interlinked
The waiting flock departs
The dying sun blinked
On a planet grown barren
Dusty deserts, empty ocean
Locusts on a dead kraken
Paradise lost, no remission
Ghosts laughing
As they lay clutching
Thirty pieces of cursed silver

#sacrifice

Soaring spirit
Above decaying hope
Collapsed in a pit
Rising against the slope
Into the fire
For this sacrifice
In the last hour
Comes the price
Ending one to save us all

#Jupiter

Regal and powerful, it was He
I should follow, they all said.
Jupiter the mighty, ruler of all things.
But in my pantheon, the mentor was another,
For it was Athena, fierce and wise
That in the secret of my heart
I longed to be.

#empress

Hey girl, you think you're an empress?
That you're more and others are less?
Well I'll be frank, yeah I'll confess
I see through you, through your distress
All these thoughts you just won't address
Wishing life wasn't such a mess
This insufferable stress
No play, no recess

#wildfire

Quickfire,
Wildfire,
Pretty little flame
Ardent pyre
Reaching higher
Two souls' burning game
Then ember
Warmth grows colder
Desire turns tame
Then a cold shadow
Ash and sorrow
Nothing left to claim

#emotion

The wall stands. Invisible, but as present as a prison.

Never show emotion,

for emotion is weakness.

Never show trust,

for trust is surrender.

Never show love,

for love is for others.

Empty smiles.

Indifference.

Robotic gestures,

Hiding the pain.

To never again be prey.

#evaporate

Ain't easy to see the world around you
Echoes of dark ages and hate
Ain't easy to keep your wits about you
To not let hope evaporate
Ain't easy but I believe in you
This bitter fog to dissipate
In the end you will pull through
And darkness shall abate.

#evaporate

The pebble strikes, hard as a boulder
Against a foe, o so great
The crowds roar like distant thunder
The giant's thoughts evaporate
A blow, a fall, a tiny whimper
Such an implacable fate
Goliath's pride, torn asunder
Victorious, David stands straight.

#evaporate

Thoughts entwined, brushes shine
Colorful dances, whimsical line
All your burdens evaporate
Let only your dreams permeate
On the canvas, shapes and forms
Motifs oblivious to the norms
Blessed is the artist's playground
Be it rectangle, square or round.

#peaks

Empty talk-shows
Cold elite cliques
The people bellows
The hard truth leaks
Grim dissent grows
Pitchfork and sticks
In ebbs and flows
Valleys and peaks
Until it blows
Tired of tricks

Vermilion petals
Scintillating morning dew
A moment in time

~

Tiptoes on the sand
A quest for the perfect shell
Childish abandon

~

Like a hermit crab
You will have to leave your shell
If you want to grow

~

Valiant defiance
A flower blooms; In the storm
A renegade hope

#vermilion

#emotion

interlude — haikus

#shell

Patient is the crane

No emotion as she hunts

Lest the fish escapes

~

Haunted trees await

Fear and dread evaporate

A cold moon watches

~

Verdant promises

Pale beauty across the fence

A trap lies there

#shell

Behind a shell
Walls all around
Angry floods swell
Stand your ground
Dried tears, choked yell
Strained hearts pound
Traucherous voices dwell
In this battleground
Vanquish the spell
Cleanse the wound
Til clouds dispel
Salvation found

#renegade

Roving vagabonds
Out on seven seas
Free from bonds
The wandering gypsies
A renegade life
Under one sky
Far from the strife
The filth and the lie
Is there a place
For one more
To take the ocean's embrace
And see the land no more

#renegade

Forbidden love is a torment forever
Unrequited, it hurts, strains the soul
Returned it flashes with ardent temptation
Renegade emotion beyond the will of reason
Always a chasm deep enough
To swallow our whole being
Leaving just
The sweetest taste of sin

The raven cries out
My reflection looks away
And the mirror cracks

#stubborn

Eyes wide open, in the hour of the wolf
You reminisce; Old shames, vague regrets
Stubborn intrusions you fight off
A hostage of intimate secrets
Breathing deep, counting sheep
Yearning for the sweet bliss of sleep
A redemption, a pardon
A liberation

#bright

This realization
A revelation
Pushing away the darkest thought
Hope for a bright morning
And brighter days ahead
These battles I fought
I thought I'd never be winning
I almost fled
But I'm still here
Not without fear
Everything at stake
Finally awake

#shatter

Mirror, mirrors, looking back
False reflections, just a hack
Hazy light and empty hall
Yeah the writing's on the wall
Feel the shell snap and shatter
The irrevocable shiver
A lost hope may yet be found
Know your truth and stand your ground

A maze
Of thoughts composed
A realm of doubt
In time ever paused
Labyrinth ablaze
Searing flames sprout
All devouring, unopposed
Just another phase
The lingering drought
A truth betrays
To be exposed
At last, or done without
To break of not the illusion
Cornelian indecision

#skyline

Perched on the rooftop
I watch the sun rise
Against the skyline
Will the race stop
What is the prize
What's on the line
Horizons linked
The false and real
Juxtaposed
Running before the door is closed
And if I blinked
No deal
So eyes wide open
I awaken

#confess

Feet firm in the earth, eyes to the sky
Stubborn pride replaces wondering why
Shedding the false shell of shame
A newfound peace stormy thoughts shall tame
A precious new life, born a second time
Will soar unbound, and confess to no crime

#confess

Crisp morning, purple dawn
Happiness from small things grown
Fragrances from secret gardens
Free from immemorial guardians
Joy is no sin to confess
A gift to seize with excess
Hum a reel, sing a sonnet
For all your pains to forget

#tangled

Tangled dreams discarded
In a neglected corner
Dusty spiderwebs
Tumbleweeds in mind
Aimless vagabond
Alone in the immensity
Feather in a storm
Mere toy in
The hands of Fate
Picked up
At Heaven's Gate
By an oblivious angel
Cradled in love
At last

#fragile

Hope

Tenacious phoenix

A fragile thread above the Styx

The sturdiest rope

Underworld chanting

A siren's cry

Always tempting

The sweetest lie

Return

Awake, child

For in a world eager to burn

This thread is your most faithful guide

#fragile

Godforsaken sisters
Cast away in whispers
Too old, too free, too much a temptress
Innocent youth brought to confess
Sins by others imagined
Behind grey walls forever pinned
A fragile soul
Thrown in a hole
To wilt away til comes the hearse
Victim of the Magdalene curse

#million

Far from shore
At your side
A million miles
A single step
The same chasm
Dividing line
Let go
Cast off
Drift away a while
Set new courses
New memories
Keep the old
As warm keepsakes
Shed no tears
There is new life
To be breathed into
Our souls
Again

A million miles under our keel
Somewhere beyond the rainbow
A myriad tangled dreams in tow
A fragile hope remained still

Was the grass greener, we confess
Across this jagged skyline
A bright illusion to enshrine
And stubborn regrets to suppress

#million

#somewhere

#tangled

#fragile

#confess

#skyline

#bright

#stubborn

#forever

This is not the end
Though nothing is forever
Keep walking the path
Forget despair and wrath
A quiet mind is stronger
And in time it will mend



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